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TWITTER TO RESTRICT VISIBILITY OF TWEETS THAT VIOLATE ITS POLICY

The social media platform will allow freedom of speech but not 'freedom of reach' as it will restrict visibility of tweets that violate its rules

HATEFUL CONTENT FIRST IN LINE TO FACE CURBS

In its policy update, Twitter said it will initially apply the visibility filter on tweets that are found violating hateful conduct rules and expand it to other domains later. The social media firm said users have the right to express their opinions and ideas without fear of censorship. However, if they are violative of norms, Twitter will do the needful to keep other users safe from such content

BETTER THAN 'LEAVE UP VS TAKE DOWN' STYLE

- Twitter said restricting the reach of tweets, also known as visibility filtering, is one of its existing enforcement actions to move beyond the binary 'leave up versus take down' approach to content moderation
- It also admitted that like other social platforms, it has not been historically transparent on this when it has taken up this action

NO ADS

WILL BE PLACED ADJACENT TO CONTENT THAT IS LABELLED UNDER THE NEW RULE

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SC defines boundaries of same-sex union case

Criticises Centre's request to hear maintainability of the matter first

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

A five-member Constitution bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would not go into personal laws governing marriage while deciding pleas seeking legal recognition of same-sex union and instead examine it from the prism of the Special Marriage Act.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud observed that there was no absolute concept of a man or a woman. "It's not the question of what your genitals are. It's far more complex and even when Special Marriage Act says man and woman, the notion of a man and a woman is not an absolute based on genitals," he said.

The court brushed aside the Centre's request to decide on the maintainability of the pleas first, saying the government should not tell the judges how to conduct the proceedings.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, in his opening remarks, said the issue of creation of a social-legal relationship of marriage could not be debated by just five individuals on that side, five on this side, five brilliant minds on the bench for the entire nation, as the matter was sensitive in nature.

Pointing out that marriage is a legislative function and that it is on the concurrent list, Mehta said all parties need to be heard. Claiming that only a biological man and woman can enter into a valid wedlock, he said, acceptance of societal relationships is never dependent on judgments or legislations. It comes only from within. "Even in the Special Marriage Act, the legislative intent throughout has been of a relationship between a biological male and a biological female," he argued.

The CJI rebutted, "I'm sorry Mr Solicitor, we are in charge. Don't tell us how to conduct court proceedings," adding and the nature and tenability of the preliminary objection will depend on the canvas the petitioners open up.

He said an incremental approach to the process of judicial determination in the case would reflect sage wisdom. The court, he said, will play a dialogical role to create consensus and move towards a more equal future. "We're conscious of our limitations. We can always confine our canvas," the CJI said.

He also pointed out that after the SC decriminalised unnatural sex, the verdict found greater acceptance. "We find there is greater acceptance in our universities... There is an acceptance which is evolving."

Terming the state's submission that people belonging to LGBTQIA+ are not equal to the heterosexual group as astounding, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said their social stigma can be removed only after they get the legal right to marry.

NO PIECEMEAL APPROACH PLEASE: SIBAL

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind, said the court should either hear the issue in its entirety or not at all. A piecemeal approach will cause more harm than good to the group seeking legal validation for same-sex marriages, he pointed out

AN APPLE TO COOK

Apple CEO Tim Cook's reaction when a customer shows up with a 39-year-old Macintosh, the US firm's first personal computer model launched in 1984, during the opening of India's first Apple retail store at BKC in Mumbai on Tuesday | PTI | P13

MEA SEIZED OF MATTER

Stranded in Sudan, 31 Hakki-Pikkis send SOS

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THIRTY-ONE people from the Hakki-Pikki tribal community, who have been stranded in Sudan since clashes between army and paramilitary forces broke out in that country, on Tuesday sought help from the Karnataka government to return home.

The Karnataka State Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) under the Revenue Department is working in close coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs to rescue and bring back the Hakki-Pikki community members and other Kannadigas stranded in Sudan.

The KSNDMC office got a call from one of the stranded tribal community members on Tuesday seeking help to return home. "As soon as we got the rescue call from El Fashir, we informed the MEA, which has now taken up the matter," KSNDMC Director Manoj Rajan told *TNIE*.

He said though the caller stated that 31 members of the community are looking for help to return home, there could be many more from Karnataka stranded in war-torn Sudan. They have been told to follow instructions from the Indian Embassy and stay safe.

Meanwhile, reacting to ex-CM Siddaramaiah's tweet, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, tweeted: "Simply appalled at your tweet! There are lives at stake; don't do politics. Since the fighting started on April 14th, the Embassy of India in Khartoum has been continuously in touch with most Indian Nationals and PIOs in Sudan. (sic)." P5

Boy drowns in pit dug by BWSSB

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A two-and-a-half-year-old boy drowned in a pit filled with rainwater on Pipeline Road in Byadarahalli police station limits on Monday. A BWSSB engineer and a contractor are alleged to have dug up the pit to lay a pipeline. As they left the pit open, it got filled with rainwater. It is suspected that the boy, who was playing nearby, might have slipped into it and drowned. A criminal complaint has been registered against the BWSSB engineer and the contractor. P3

STATE WON'T USE NEW QUOTA MATRIX FOR APPOINTMENTS TILL APRIL 25, SC TOLD

NEW DELHI: The Karnataka government on Tuesday assured the Supreme Court that till April 25, it won't make any appointments or admissions on the basis of its March 27 order that scrapped the 4% reservation for Muslims under the OBC quota and distributed it among the Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities. P5

BJP brass upset over Lingayat vote mess

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE exit of top Lingayat leaders - former CM Jagadish Shettar and former DCM Laxman Savadi - have reportedly dented BJP's Lingayat vote bank on which the party heavily banks and the central leadership is "not very happy" about the recent developments, informed sources said.

"The ground reports post Savadi and Shettar exits are not very encouraging and the BJP high command is reportedly upset over the gross miscalculation, which may have led to the latest debacle. The party is now working on damage control and heavily banking on former CM and Lingayat strongman BS Yediyurappa to regain some of the lost ground with the community," said sources.

"Though Yediyurappa had single handedly garnered the trust and support of the Lingayats, which brought BJP to power, the community, which had voted for the individual and not the party, may not vote for the saffron party this time because they know that Yediyurappa will neither become CM nor be given any significant role in the state after the Assembly elections.

The Lingayats may instead like to go with the Congress party and put their might behind MB Patil, who has strong chances of becoming CM or at least DCM if the party wins the mandate this time," said party insiders.

Jagadish Shettar

Laxman Savadi

Cong fields Savanur against Bommai

The Congress on Tuesday released its fourth list of seven candidates for the Karnataka elections, fielding Mohammed Yousuf Savanur against CM Basavaraj Bommai from Shiggaon | P6

Patil recently announced that he too is a CM aspirant along with KPCC president DK Shivakumar and CLP leader Siddaramaiah.

Sources said that Shettar's press conference in which he spoke about his humiliation by the BJP leadership in his unblemished political career has not gone down well with the Lingayats. CONTINUED ON: P4

Santhosh behind my exit, alleges Shettar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister Jagadish Shettar on Tuesday held BJP national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh responsible for his exit from the party. He told reporters here that to ensure Hubballi-Dharwad Central seat to his "blue-eyed" boy Mahesh Tenginkai, Santhosh forced him out of BJP. Shettar said this had happened to him for the second time. In the 2018 elections, Tenginkai got the party ticket for Kalaghatagi seat because of Santhosh. The party also gave him its B Form. But when local leaders strongly objected to giving ticket to an "outsider", the party gave C Form to CM Nimbannavar, asking Tenginkai to withdraw his papers.

Shettar said, "Tenginkai launched a whispering campaign six months ago stating that the party would deny me ticket and he (Tenginkai) would be a strong contender for Hubballi-Dharwad Central seat. Without the support of a 'tall' leader like Santhosh, such a campaign could not be launched." An audio clip in which BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel claims that Shettar and KS Eshwarappa would not be given tickets to contest the Assembly elections proved their intention right, the former BJP leader said.

He said though he had informed the State BJP Core Committee and the central leadership about a smear campaign against him within the party, they did not take it seriously. P6

EXPRESS READ

SC questions remission in Bilkis case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Gujarat government over the remission granted to the 11 convicts in the case of gangrape of Bilkis Bano and murder of her family members during the 2002 Godhra riots, saying the gravity of the offence should have been considered. P10

FIXING TROUBLE

Punter loses money, dials Siraj for help

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

IT'S not always that big time bookies or punters approach cricketers to influence the outcome of matches. Sometimes it's done by small-time punters too. In a bizarre incident, a punter sought help from a cricketer to turnaround his fortunes. Having lost a lot of money on betting, a man recently approached India pacer Mohammed Siraj seeking his help.

The 29-year-old pacer from Hyderabad immediately reported the issue to BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit, which sought help from cyber cops and local police to nab the person.

"He sent messages on WhatsApp to Siraj informing him about the losses he incurred on betting and wanted his help. He requested the pacer to help him out. Siraj informed us about the approach," a highly-placed source with the BCCI's ACU told this daily.

"The accused is not associated with any gang nor does he have past record of betting. He lost a lot of money while betting on matches and was hoping Siraj would help him to get out of the mess. We took the help of the cyber police. We also kept his phone under observation with the help of local police. Eventually, we traced him. Our officers accompanied local police when he was caught somewhere in Andhra," said the source. The incident happened during the India-Australia ODI series, which preceded the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL).

The insider, however, didn't reveal what means the person used to place the bet (in the Indian context, it is governed by the Public Gambling Act of 1867 where betting is a state subject. But, by and large, it is banned in most states, save for a few exceptions).